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March 13, 2001
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FDA Commissioner
Docket #00N1396/ OOD 1598
FDA Docket Management Branch (HFA- 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

To the FDA Commissioner:

Please do all you can to allow the following to become reality:

1. Mandatory labeling of all G.E. food, processed or fresh, indicating that it is genetically engineered with a clear explanation of what G.E. means.
2. A moratorium on all G.E. food with removal of GE food from the shelf.
3. Independent testing for safety before marketing foods, i.e. an environmental review.

It is becoming clear: G.E. should be used to guide the breeding of animals and the grafting of plants, something that has been done for centuries, but blindly. Now we have a way of doing this more methodically, but the DNA chain of one species should not be altered by adding genes from another species altogether. There might be undesirable and irreversible outcomes. There is an analogy: neutrons split nuclei of atoms and that creates highly radioactive man-made elements, many of which take millennia to decay into a material that is no longer radioactive. These man-made elements are harmful to bio-organisms. Now we alter DNA, the defining source of cells, tissues, organisms, etc. We mass cultivate new entities, not proven benign to other bio-organisms or to the eco-system as a whole.

The agribusiness industry, which lobbies against mandatory testing and labeling of genetically-engineered foods, contributed \$54 million to the 2000 election campaigns. This should not be a factor in deciding what is the right course to take. Only testing and independent review should decide and in the meantime the people and the environment must be protected.

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to comment on this important subject.

Sincerely,

Eleanor I. Gavin
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